

# **New Jersey Firefighters Continue To Assist With California Wildfires**

To date the New Jersey Forest Fire Service has provided 56 wildland firefighters to Northern California to assist with their continuing stubborn wildfires. Since June 20, 2008, 2,096 wildfires have burned over 1,109,891 acres of forest and open space across the state of California.

25 individuals are currently assigned and the remaining 31 personnel have already returned from their 14 – 18 day firefighting assignments.

New Jersey firefighting resources currently assigned include:

1 - Type 2 Initial Attack Firefighting Crew (comprised of 20 firefighters) – with main responsibilities of building firelines, conducting burn out operations, and supporting firefighting operations.

2 – Division/Group Supervisors – with main responsibilities of incident oversight for a division or group (major portion) of a wildfire. Oversees all firefighting resources assigned within their major portion of the wildfire.

1 – Task Force Leader – assigned to the oversight and management of five single resources including equipment and personnel.

1 – Radio Operator – with main responsibilities of providing emergency and administrative communications at an emergency incident as well as coordinating with local agencies.

1 – Line Safety Officer – assigned to a portion of an emergency incident and assists in the prevention and mitigation of firefighting hazards to ensure the safety of all personnel.

For additional information on the wildfires in California please visit the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection web site at [www.fire.ca.gov/](http://www.fire.ca.gov/) and for information on all major wildfires in the nation visit the National Incident Information System at [www.incweb.org/](http://www.incweb.org/)

Please note - All firefighting resources supplied to the State of California are authorized through a wildland firefighting mutual aid agreement between the state of New Jersey, the United States Forest Service and all fifty states. All expenses incurred by the NJ Forest Fire Service in supplying firefighting resources are fully reimbursed by the agency requesting New Jersey's assistance.